

Technical Upgrade Training Provides Automotive Technology Teachers Opportunity To Learn About Hybrid Vehicles

This workshop included the study of operations and diagnosis of hybrid engines and alternate fuel cell technology such as those used on Honda, Toyota, and the new Chevrolet. This is the engine that uses both electricity and gasoline. Hands-on training included the use of a bi-directional scan tool. Training for instructors was held in Lexington and Bowling Green.

This year's training was coordinated by Darrin Chasteen, president of DCC Training and the Professional Master Technician Association.

"The main reason, in my opinion, for this training is that these guys are teaching my future employees. If they are teaching yesterday's technology, my employees will not be up to date," said Chasteen.

"I think new technologies in the industry have created a greater demand for more technical upgrade training,"

says David Mueller, ACDelco Regional Training Instructor. "In many cases, the wages that a top technician receives now exceed those of people with college degrees."

"I ask my students these questions. 'How important are doctors, fire fighters and police officers? What do they all use to get to work or to the scene of a fire or accident?' The answer is a VEHICLE. So, how important is a transportation technician? If we can't fix those vehicles, what would they do?" – Ken Fannin, Rockcastle Co. ATC

“I have been working hard over the past year to get this class for my instructors. With the popularity of hybrids starting to take off (there is a backlog of orders for the Toyota Prius), and the new Hybrid Ford Escape being put on the market this year, it is just a matter of time before all technicians will need this training and experience,” says Academic Consultant Todd Nickens. “This class provided instruction on hybrid engine operation and repair techniques, and will allow our instructors to pass this information on to our students.”



2004 Hybrid Engine Training Class

Below: Darrin Chasteen (blue shirt) watches as Breathitt Co. ATC Instructor Jesse Tackett explains the use of a Vetronix Master Tech Scan tool to John Lucas, Lee Co. ATC and Joe Mitchell, Montgomery Co. ATC.



Participants were extremely pleased with the time spent in this training class and driving the new Toyota Prius as evidenced by the following commentary from KY Tech automotive technology instructors:

***Mike Armstrong, Garrard Co. ATC -**

“I’m going to take some of this very material and present it to my students.”

***Doug Borchers, C.E. McCormick ATC -**

“We are the ones who have to teach the students how to fix these vehicles. If we don’t get this upgrade training, how can we accomplish our goal?”

***Frank Brown, Madison Co. ATC -** “It’s amazing to feel no difference in changing from electric to gas while driving this car.”

***Mark Burke, Wayne Co. ATC -** “It’s my responsibility to my students to stay current. The information in this upgrade training was presented in a professional manner and it met my technical needs and interests.”



Doug Borchers, C.E. McCormick ATC

***Kim Constant, Oldham Co. ATC** - "By receiving today's technology, we will be able to help students stay on the cutting edge of technology."

***Jerome Jarvis, Clay Co. ATC** - "It's about keeping up with the future. It's hard to do."

***John Lucas, Lee Co. ATC** - "I think training is good because we can see the technology that is on the market. It's fresh."

***Trent May, Marion Co. ATC** - "Without upgrade training, we would not be able to keep up with the changes in industry. It is a vital part of our job in order to properly prepare our students for the world of work and for us to know what is going on in the industry."

***Joe Mitchell, Montgomery Co. ATC** - "This is today's training for tomorrow's future."

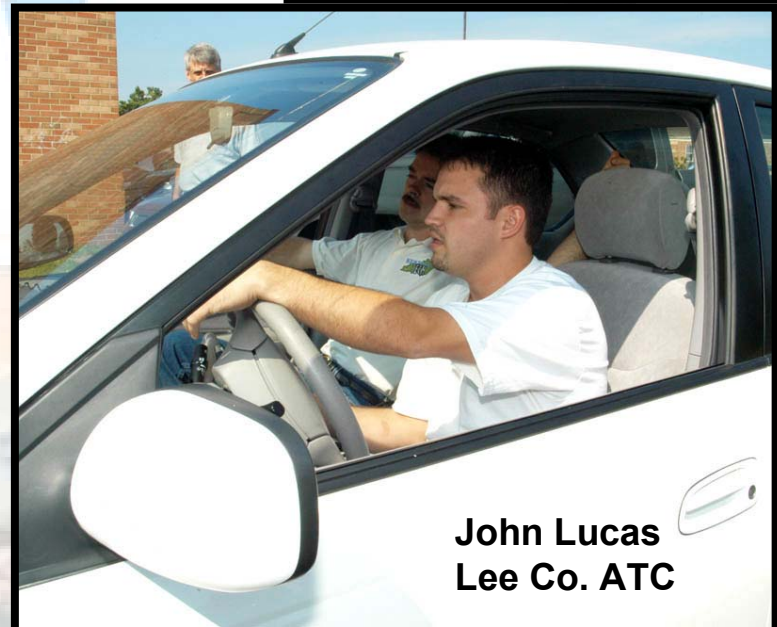
***Gary Mullins, Floyd Co. ATC** - "If we are going to train the technicians of the future, we have got to stay up to date."

***Dwayne Pack, Martin Co. ATC** - "The information that we get in these classes is invaluable to assist us with our kids and to keep them ahead of the times."

***Clyde Pence, Corbin ATC** - "Today's training betters tomorrow's future."



**Kim Constant
Oldham Co. ATC**



**John Lucas
Lee Co. ATC**

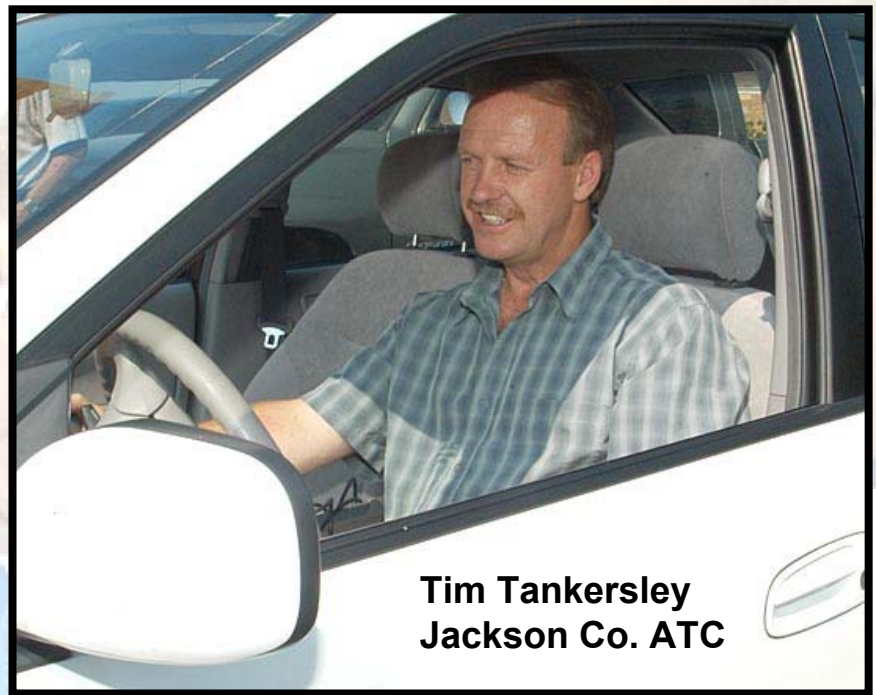
***Jesse Tackett, Breathitt Co. ATC-**

“Upgrade training today gives us the knowledge to teach the technology to the technicians of the future.”

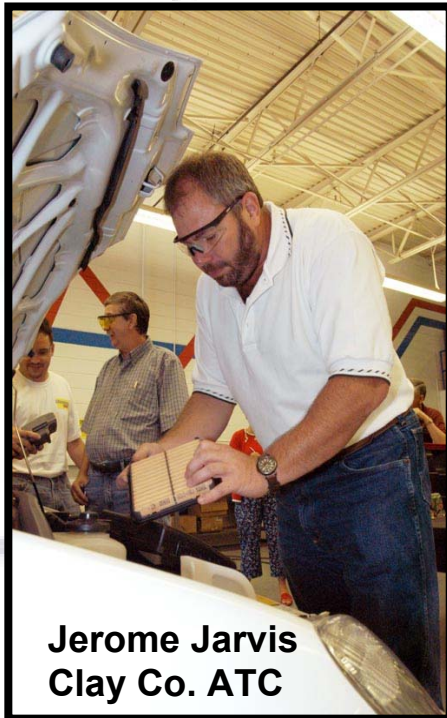
***Tim Tankersley, Jackson Co. ATC -**

“It’s so interesting to get this training and take it back to the kids.”

***Jim Watson, Bullitt Co. ATC - “It’s important to have teachers training for the students future. This (hybrid) car is a taste of the future – today!”**



**Tim Tankersley
Jackson Co. ATC**



**Jerome Jarvis
Clay Co. ATC**



Instructor David R. Mueller



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